

MARVEL

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

VOL
5



PUBLIC SCRUTINY

GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT



Spider-Man beat Kraven. He defeated Dr. Octopus. He even survived a serious scrap with an artificially enhanced Green Goblin. But his worst enemy may be a simple crook in a Spider-Man suit. That's all it takes to ruin Spider-Man's reputation, suddenly painting Peter Parker's alter ego as Public Enemy No. 1...and changing his life forever!

Collecting *Ultimate Spider-Man* #28-32, written by **Brian Michael Bendis** (*New Avengers*) and illustrated by **Mark Bagley** (*The Pulse*).

MARVEL

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

VOL

5



PUBLIC SCRUTINY



ULTIMATE

SPIDER-MAN[®]

ISSUE

28

SIDETRACKED

**BENDIS
BAGLEY
THIBERT**

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Midtown High School



This is the story as we know it right now--

A half hour ago, this large monstrosity you see-- a man calling himself only the Rhino--

--literally charged head first into Chase Manhattan Bank at Lexington and 55th.


We have conflicting reports at this time, but one report states that this Rhino person cracked the bank vault in half, presumably in an attempt to rob the institution.

The police arrived on the scene and have been at the standoff you see before you.

What you are seeing now is live footage-- oh, my God! Did you see that? The Rhino--

Oh, my!





This Rhino character is-- is literally head-butting parked cars at the police!

He is using his head-- his own head-- as a battering ram with enough-- oh!!!

Oh! Step back!!

With enough force to actually toss entire cars at the police. Bullets seem to be having no effect.

These are live images you are seeing right now. We are live and this is a Fox Channel exclusive.

The first look at this tremendous chaos as it unfolds, uh, right now.

We will attempt to get in tighter to see if we can get a statement from one of the officers on the scene.

This is going on now?

This is going on now.

Wow.

I know.



Peter Parker



Aunt May



Mary Jane Watson



Gwen Stacy



Flash Thompson

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Art Thibert inks

Transparency Digital
colors

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letters

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associate editor

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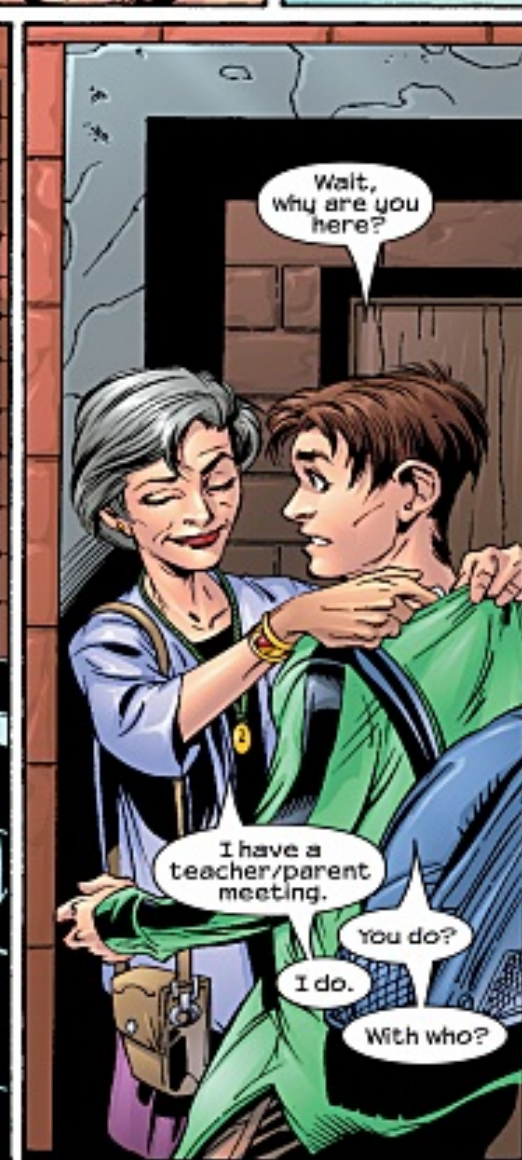
Ralph Macchio
editor

Joe Quesada
editor in chief

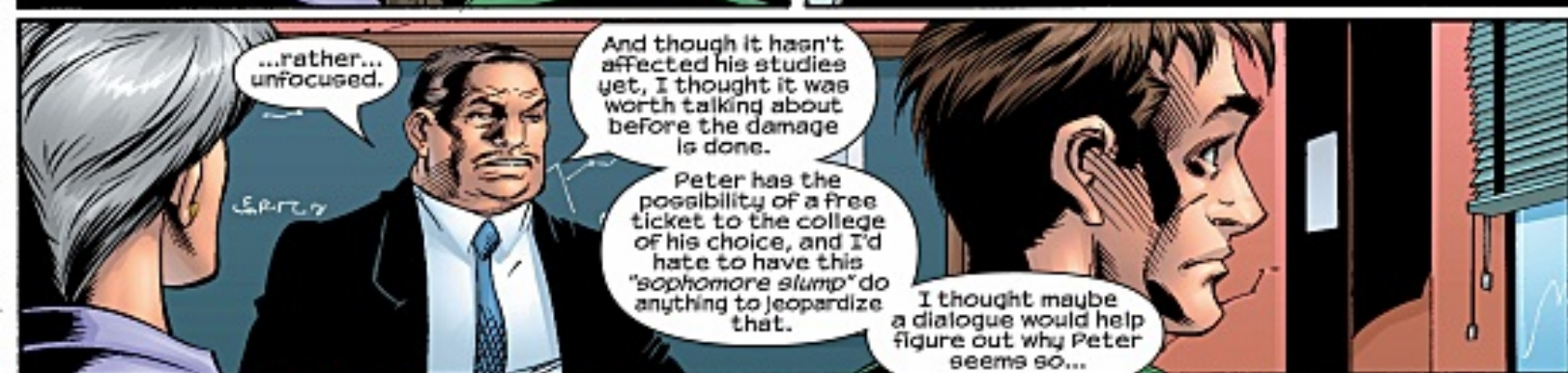
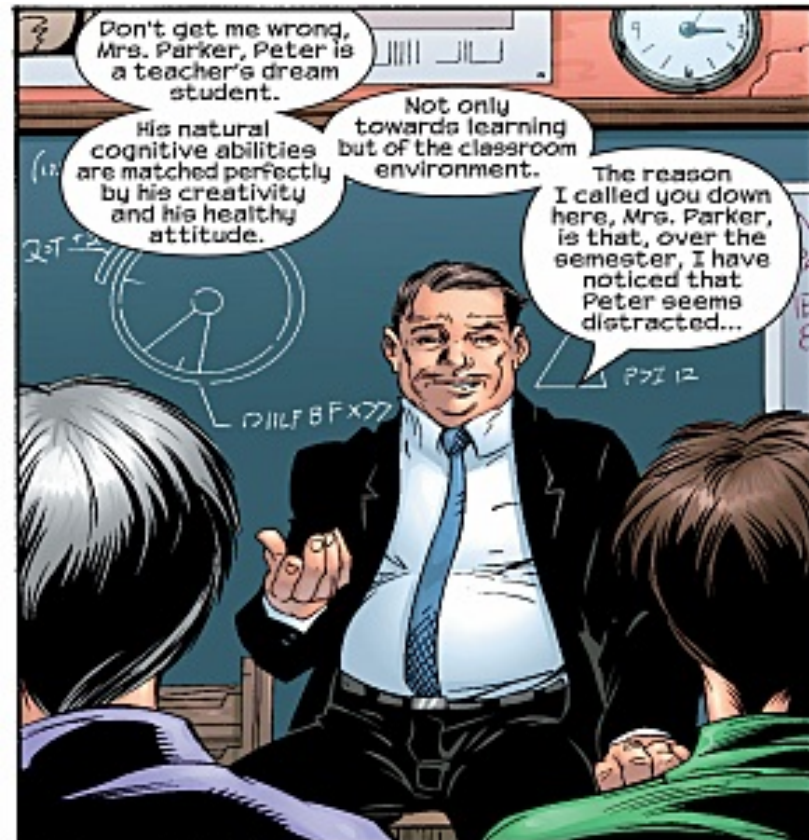
Bill Jemas
president & inspiration



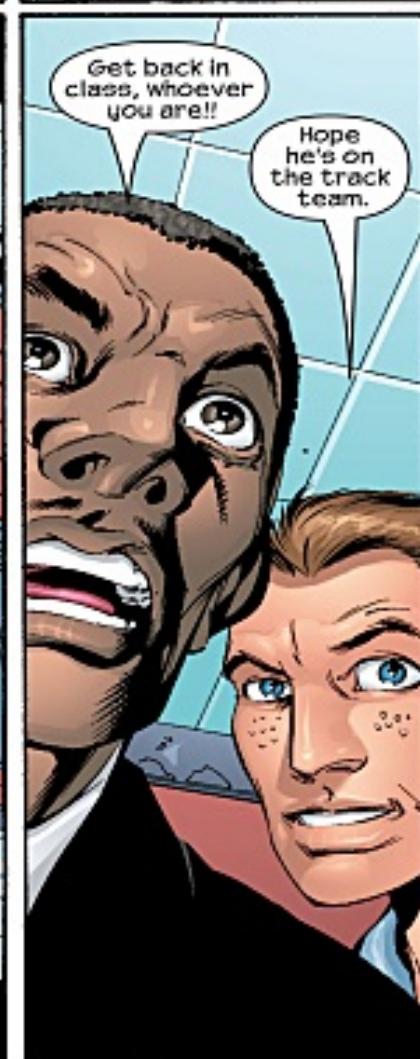


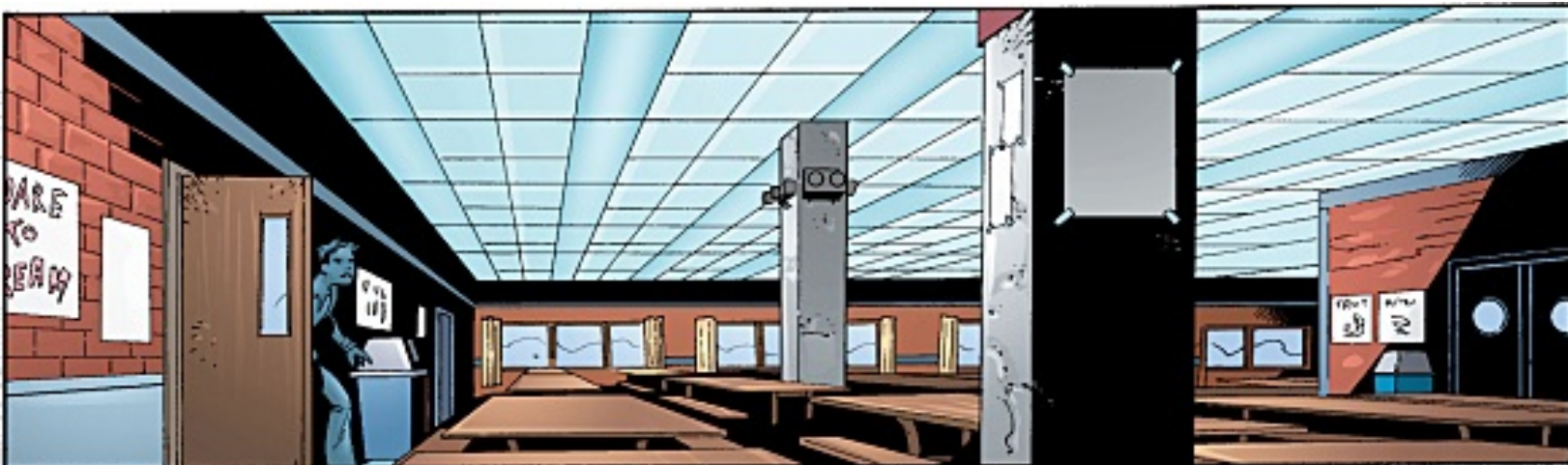














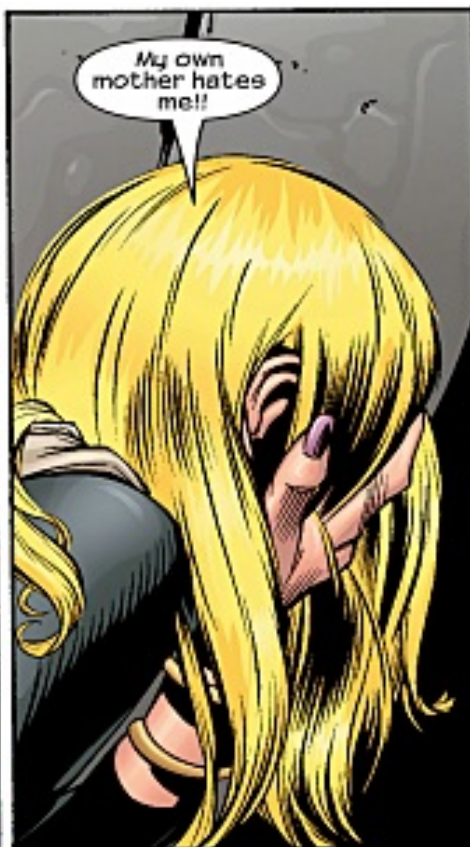




I heard her say the words: "My life in this house sickens me. I hate the people life stuck me with."



Oh.



My own mother hates me!!



Come on, Gwen. Let's-- let's get up out of the smelly garbage.

No, I'm fine right here.

Please, Gwen. Let's just--

I'm fine right here!



Gwen, I-- I want to talk with you-- but I-- ugh-- I have to go.

I have to do something... really important.



Fine.



I--



Fine, Peter.



It's just that-- hey! Let's hang out after school. You want to? Just talk and--

Just go-- it's okay.

I'll find you after school.

I promise.














A comic book illustration of a city street scene. Spider-Man is perched on a fire hose that extends from a building. In the background, a large, blue, mechanical monster with horns and a glowing eye is visible. The street is filled with debris, including a crushed car and burning wreckage. Police officers with rifles are in the foreground, and a crowd of cheering civilians is behind them. Buildings with signs like 'LAUNDRY', 'RINGO', and 'LIVE FABULOUS KIMMER' are visible. Three speech bubbles contain text about the public's reaction to Iron Man's actions.

As you can hear, the reaction on the street is jubilation. Jubilation and gratitude for a selfless hero.

The invincible Iron Man has easily bested this mysterious monstrosity that inflicted himself on our city.

We're going to see if we can get a statement from our golden knight in shining armor.



And what are you doing?

Uh--

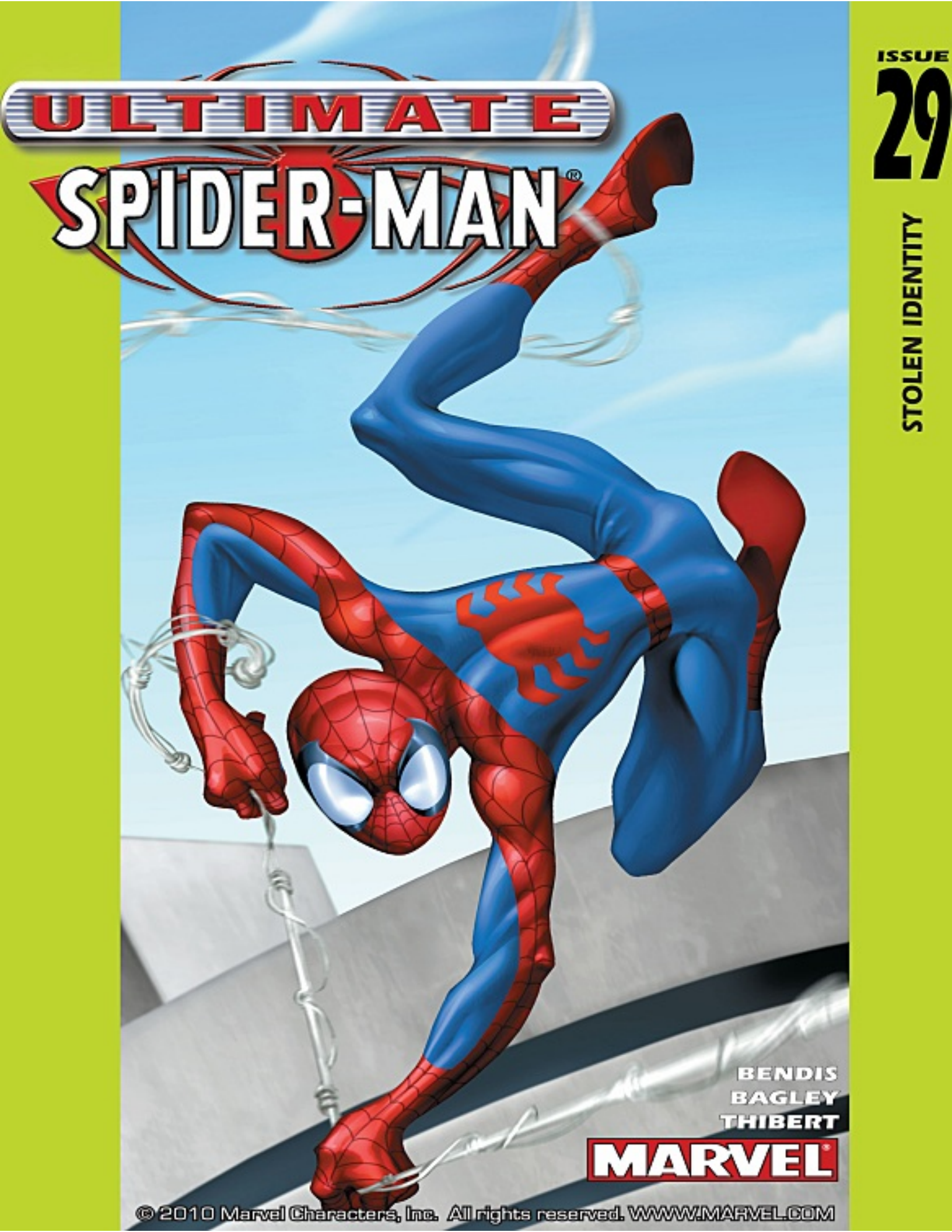
Where were you ten minutes ago?!

I-I-I--

I-I-I--

At least I tried.

End
next:
IMPOSTOR



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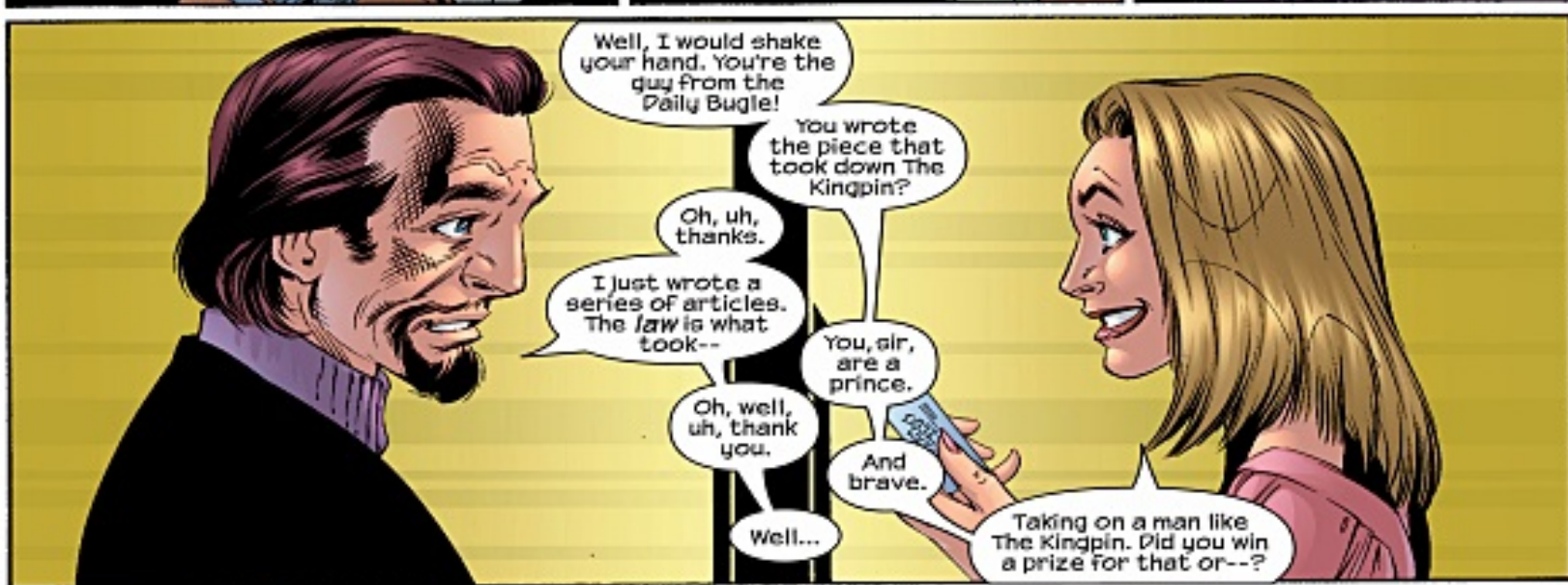
29


STOLEN IDENTITY

BENDIS
BAGLEY
THIBERT

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A full-page comic book illustration. Spider-Man, in his iconic red and blue suit, is shown from the waist up, leaning forward with his right hand on the shoulder of a man. The man, who is bald and wearing a light blue button-down shirt, looks up at Spider-Man with a nervous expression. Spider-Man's left hand is holding a large, folded newspaper. In the background, a city street scene is visible with several pedestrians, including a woman in a purple dress and a man with a backpack. A yellow building and a large sun are also in the background. Two speech bubbles are present: one from Spider-Man and one from the man.

You hear me?! This is a robbery!!

You want to get out of here in one piece... you'll do what I say!!



Peter Parker



Aunt May



Mary Jane Watson



Gwen Stacy



Flash Thompson

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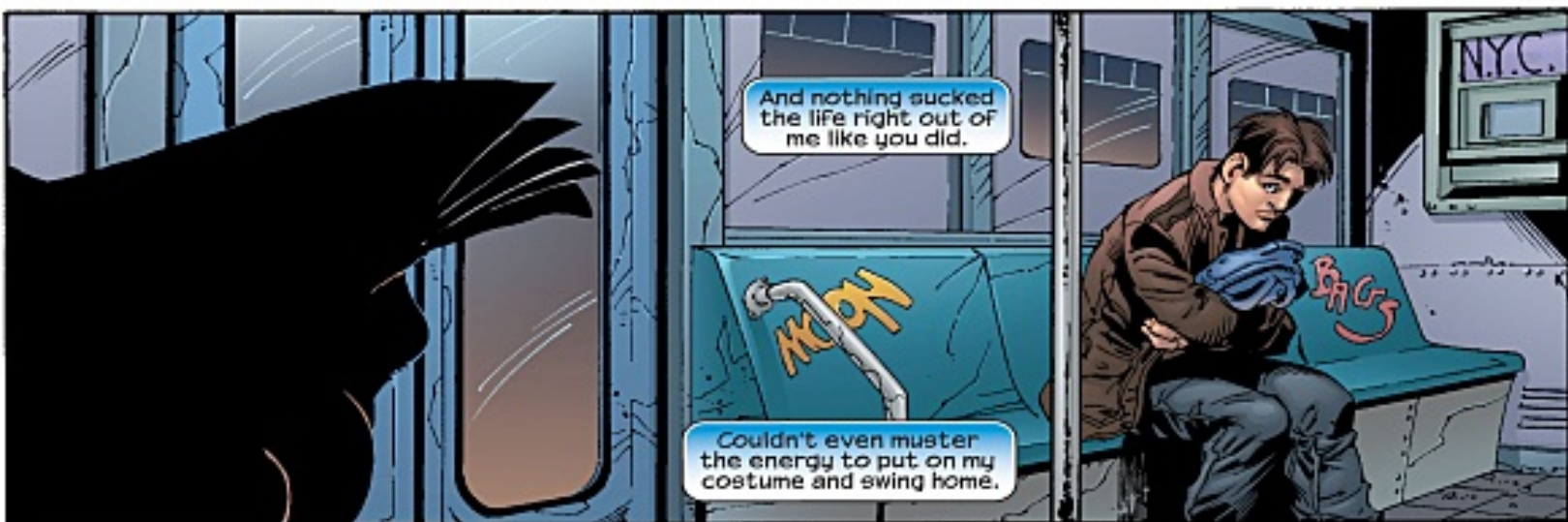
FINAL

DAILY BUGLE

FINAL

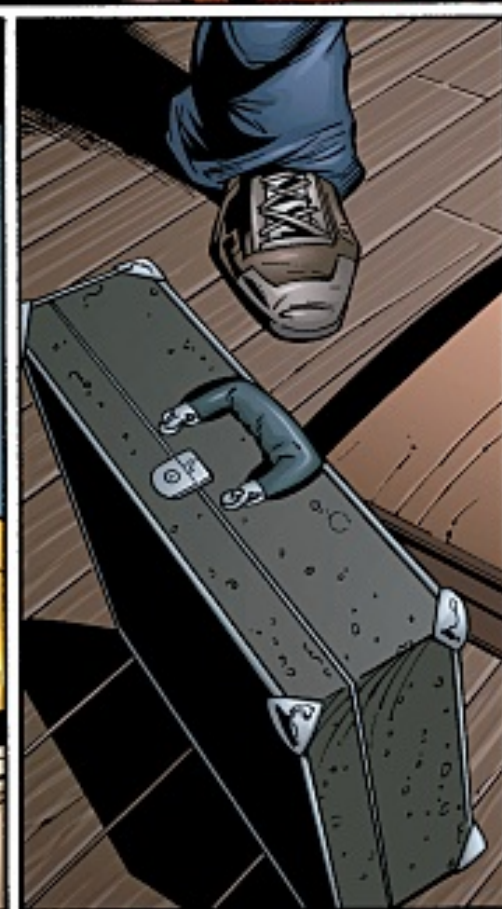
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

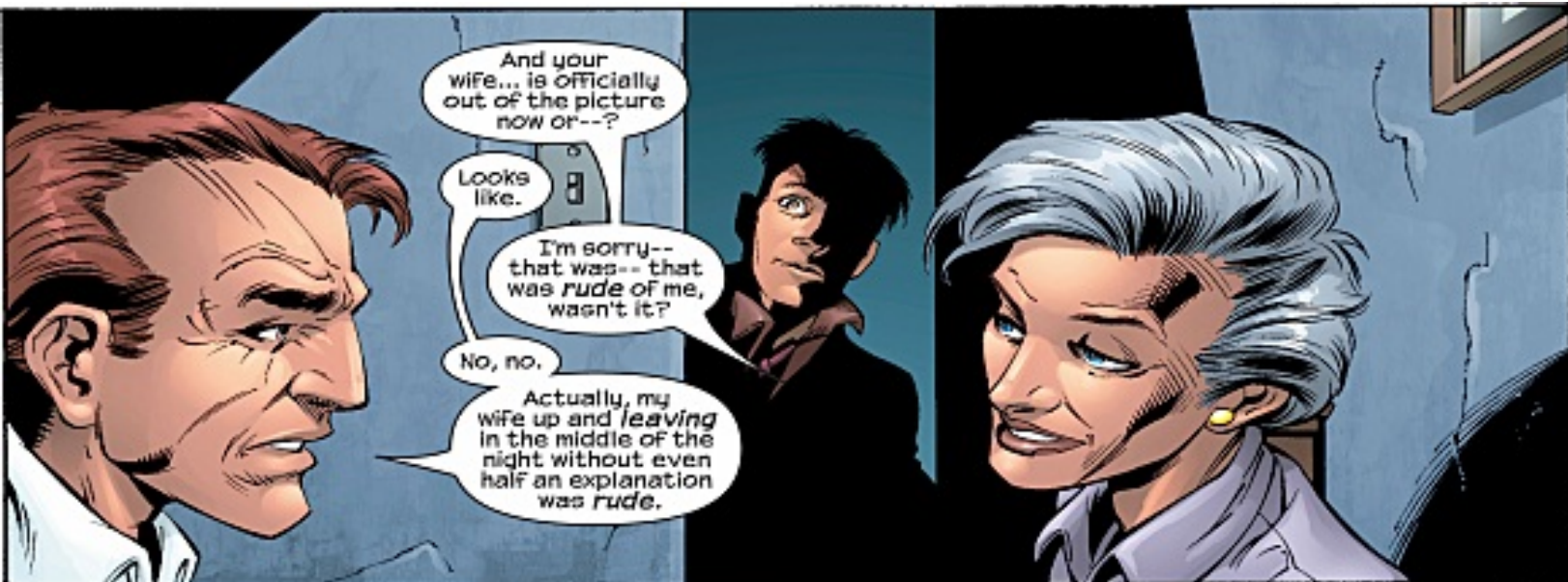
SPIDER-MAN: CRIMINAL







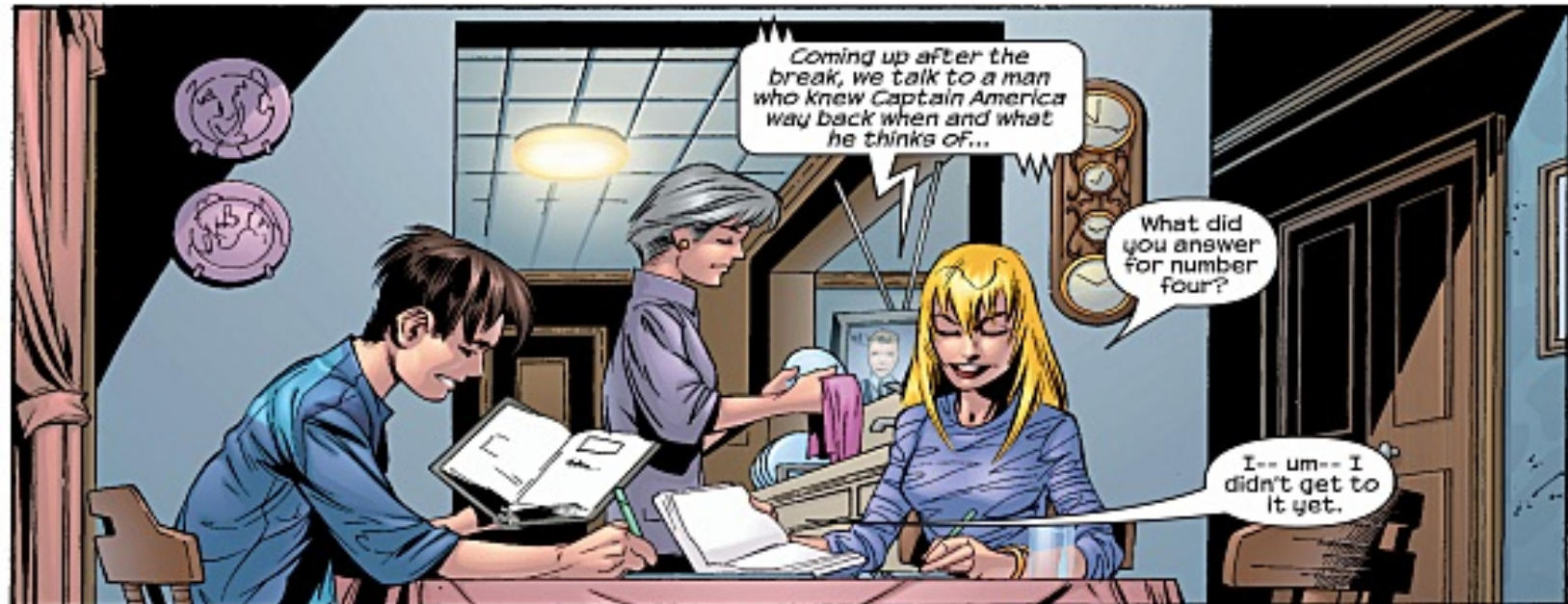












Coming up after the break, we talk to a man who knew Captain America way back when and what he thinks of...

What did you answer for number four?

I-- um-- I didn't get to it yet.



I thought MJ was going to study with us?



Yeah, I don't know what happened there...

Um, hold on. Yes.

We're going to go live to a situation that is developing uptown.

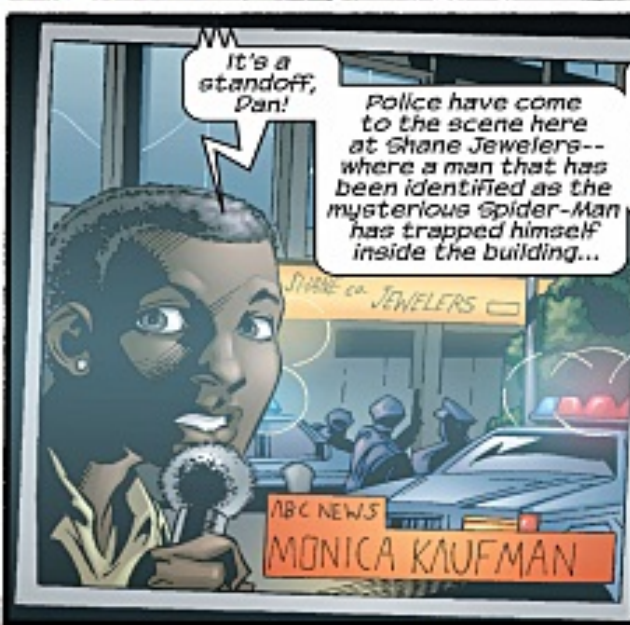


We have just received word that Spider-Man has been caught in the middle of a jewelry heist on the Upper West Side.

We are going to go live to Shane Jewelers where Monica Kaufman is already on the scene.



Monica? What is the situation down there?



It's a standoff, Dan!

Police have come to the scene here at Shane Jewelers-- where a man that has been identified as the mysterious Spider-Man has trapped himself inside the building...

ABC NEWS
MONICA KAUFMAN



Police have made numerous attempts to negotiate with Spider-Man and there is no word on what the hostage situation is just yet.

But it looks like rumors are true, Spider-Man has officially joined the ranks of criminals.



Aunt May, can I go run over to Mary's for a second?



Dan, I don't know if you can hear me...

But we have talked to sources at the Police Department and word from the inside is that the Police mood has become increasingly anti-vigilante.



We hear that they have been waiting for a moment just like this to prove their point.

We are going to stay on the scene until...

Make it easy on yourself, and come out with your mask off and your hands up!



Please, guys, allow me!

I am dying to have a talk with this guy myself.





I know you guys have a job to do but I really think I can take care of this in two shakes of a--

Get your hands on your head!!



Oh, come on... you are talking to the *actual* Spider-Man now-- hence I am not robbing anything in there and talking to you out here.



You have till the count of three....!!



Guys! I-- Hello!

I am not robbing anything!

I don't even have any pockets!!

I am here to help!!



Take him down!!





To be
continued...

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN[®]

ISSUE

30

EMERGENCY



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Peter Parker



Aunt May



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Gwen Stacy



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But Spider-Man is viciously attacked by the police the second he shows up to the crime scene. Spider-Man is shot and falls to the ground at the feet of the rabid newsmedia and police...



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STAY
DOWN! STAY
DOWN!!!

Don't
you move!

Don't you
move a muscle or
I will blow your
head off!!



AAAGGHH!!

Mmmmy
shoulder!!
Don't--

You
are under
arrest!!

My
shoulder!!

GGGHHH!!



You have
the right
to remain
silent!!

Oh no!
Oh no!

CCCHAAAKK!!

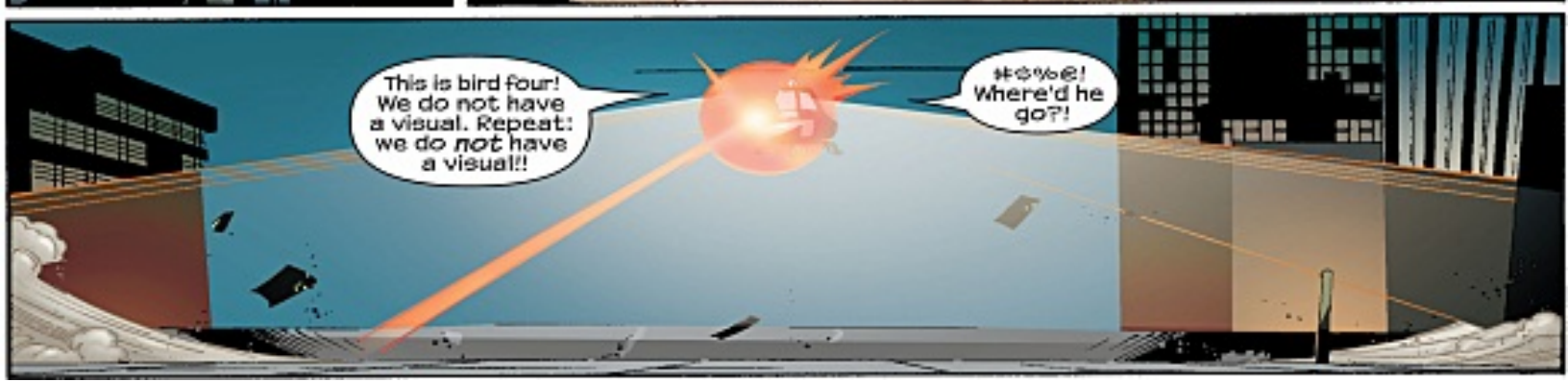
Not again.
Not--

AAAGGHH!!











PLOOSH









Oh, my God!

Oh, my God! Peter! What happened?

Mmmmm... Not doing so well...



I-I-I brought some-- oh, man--

I brought some clothes and some first aid-- I didn't know what to bring. I just...



Oh, my God, Peter!!

We have to get you to a hospital!

They'll arrest me! I don't know what to do.

We have to call your Aunt May!



No. No, we can't.

We have to!

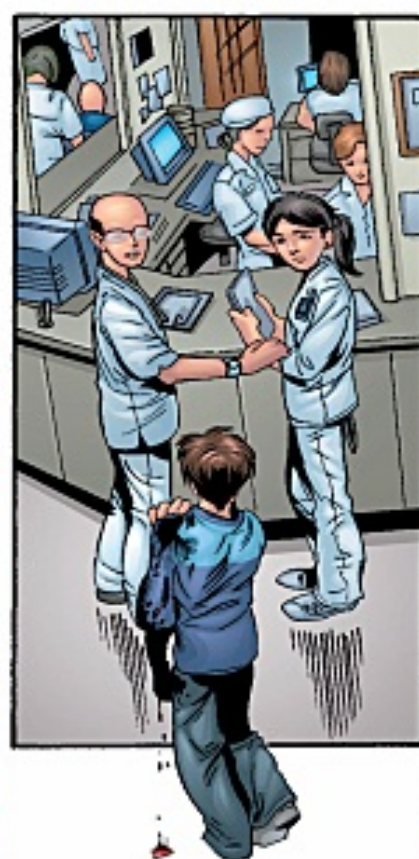
No! My-- my Uncle Ben. **LIGH!**

Uncle Ben was shot. This will-- this will kill her.



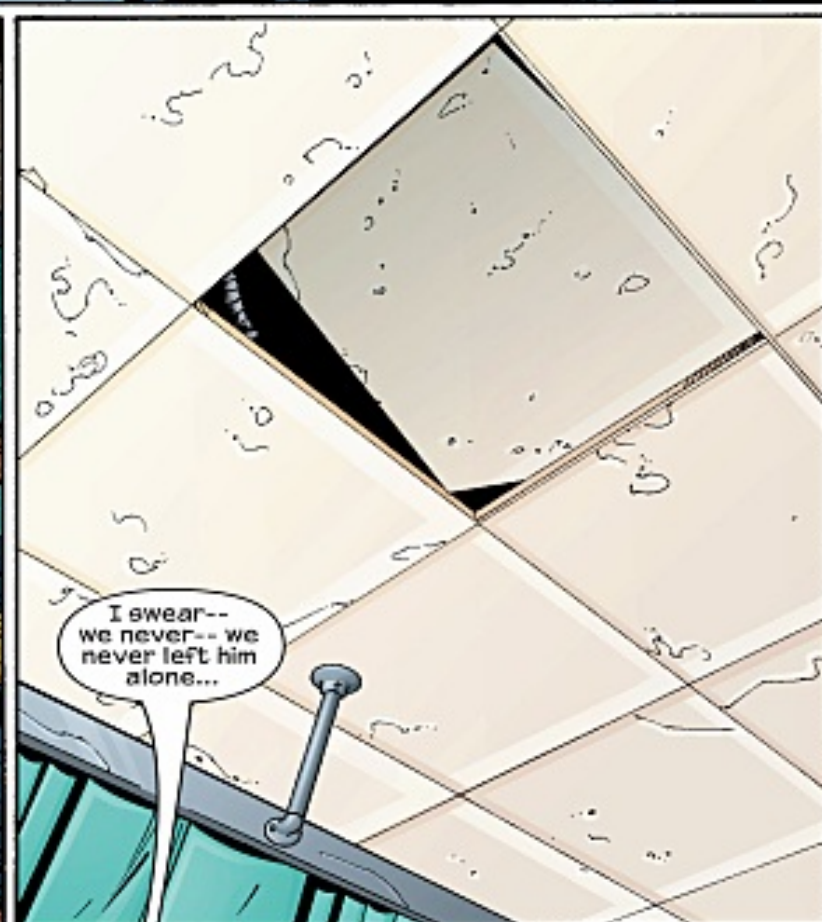
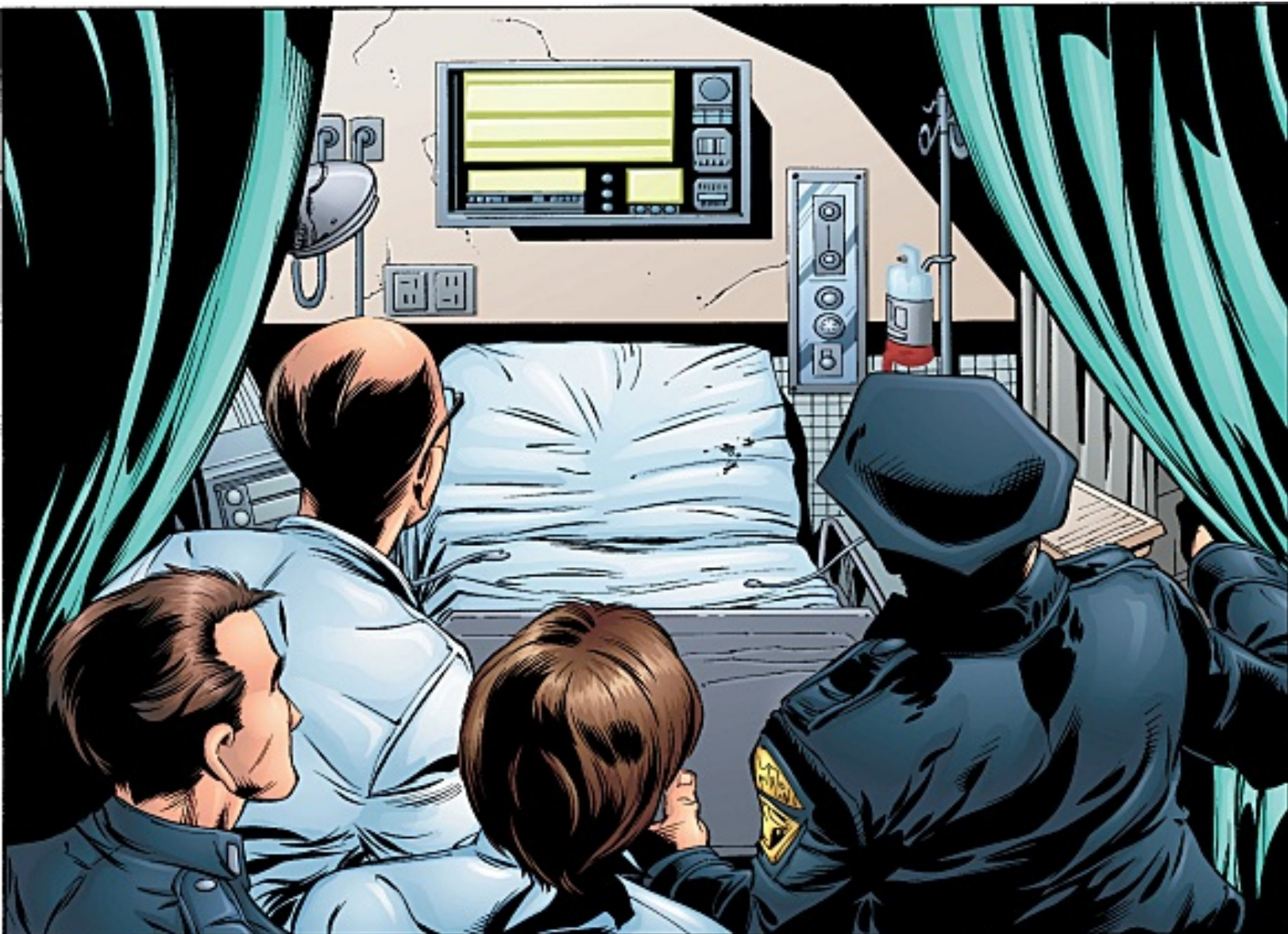
Aagghh! I don't know what to do...

I think I do.























ULTIMATE

SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE

31

BLACK VAN



**BENDIS
BAGLEY
THIBERT**

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WELCOME TO ATLANTIC CITY FOP OF NY

Should I open with that joke I told you--?

No!

What?

You're my captain, Captain, and I respect you, but if you open with that joke, half the cops in the convention hall will pull out their revolvers and--

You laughed at it when I--

What Burke is trying to say, Captain Stacy, is that joke telling is an art form and not everyone--

But you laughed.

He was kissing your butt, sir.

I was kissing butt.

I can tell a joke...

SCREEEE

BOOM

AAIEEE!







Peter Parker



Aunt May



Mary Jane Watson



Gwen Stacy



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Mary Jane, Peter's girlfriend and the only person that knows he is Spider-Man, sneaks out of her room in the middle of the night and helps an injured Peter into a hospital emergency room. Peter is treated for his gunshot wound and narrowly escapes being brought into police custody.

Gwen Stacy, the new girl at school, is staying at Peter's house, while her father, police Captain John Stacy is in Atlantic City for a police convention.



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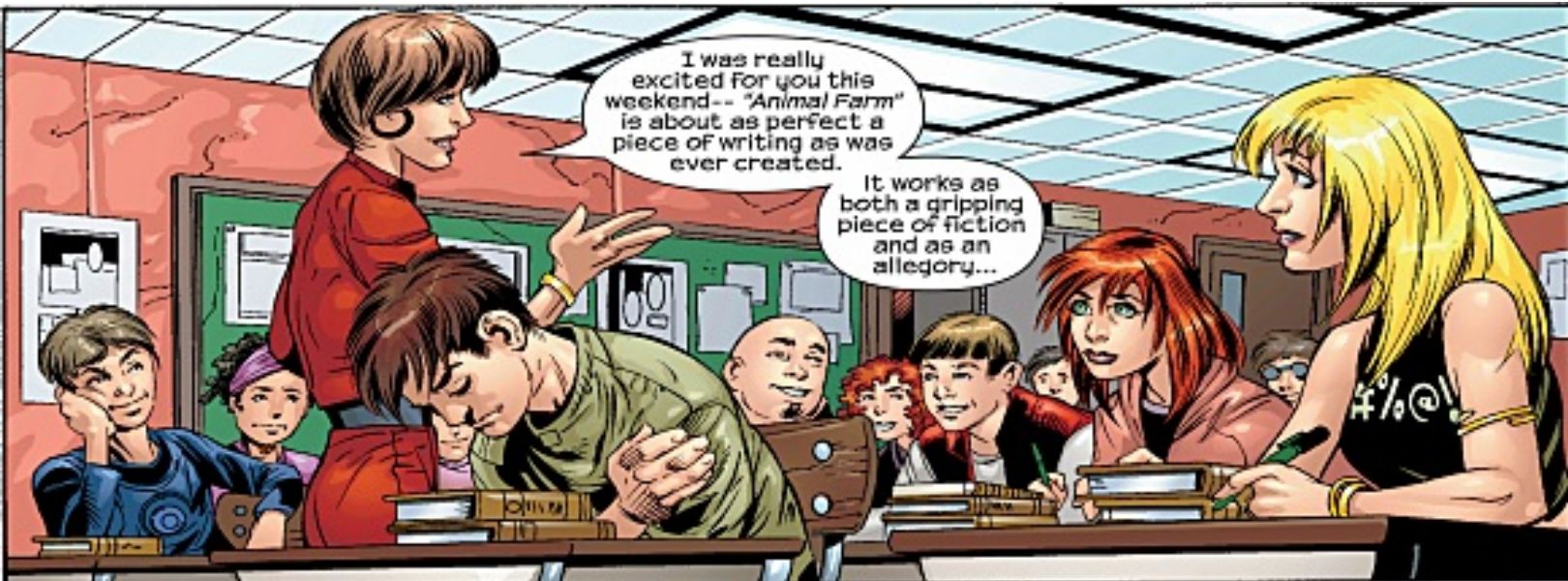
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Ralph Macchio
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editor in chief

Bill Jemas
president & inspiration



I was really excited for you this weekend-- "Animal Farm" is about as perfect a piece of writing as was ever created.

It works as both a gripping piece of fiction and as an allegory...



Does anybody know what I mean when I use the word *allegory*?

Anyone?



Peter Parker? Would you like to, maybe, wake up and tell the class what an allegory is?



Uh--
--what?



Are you okay, Peter?

Actually, no.

I'm not feeling that well.

Would you like to go to the nurse?

Yeah, maybe.

Go then.



Can I take him?

He's a big boy, Mary Jane.

I'm not feeling well either, can I go to the nurse?



Kong, from the book, name me one of the Seven Commandments that the animals painted in big white letters on the barn.

Uh-- what? Animals painting? What kind of book is this?



Oh, man...
what am I
doing?

I could be
dying for all
I know.

I mean, I got
shot last night.
An actual cop
shot me in the
arm with an actual
bullet and here
I am in class
pretending
everything is
fine.

I am
insane.



I need sleep.
I need to lie
down. I need
a doctor.

But if I even tried to stay
home sick from school, Aunt
May would totally have checked
me out and seen the huge
bandage on my shoulder...

...and I'm a good
song and dance
man-- but I don't
think I can talk
my way out of a
gunshot wound.

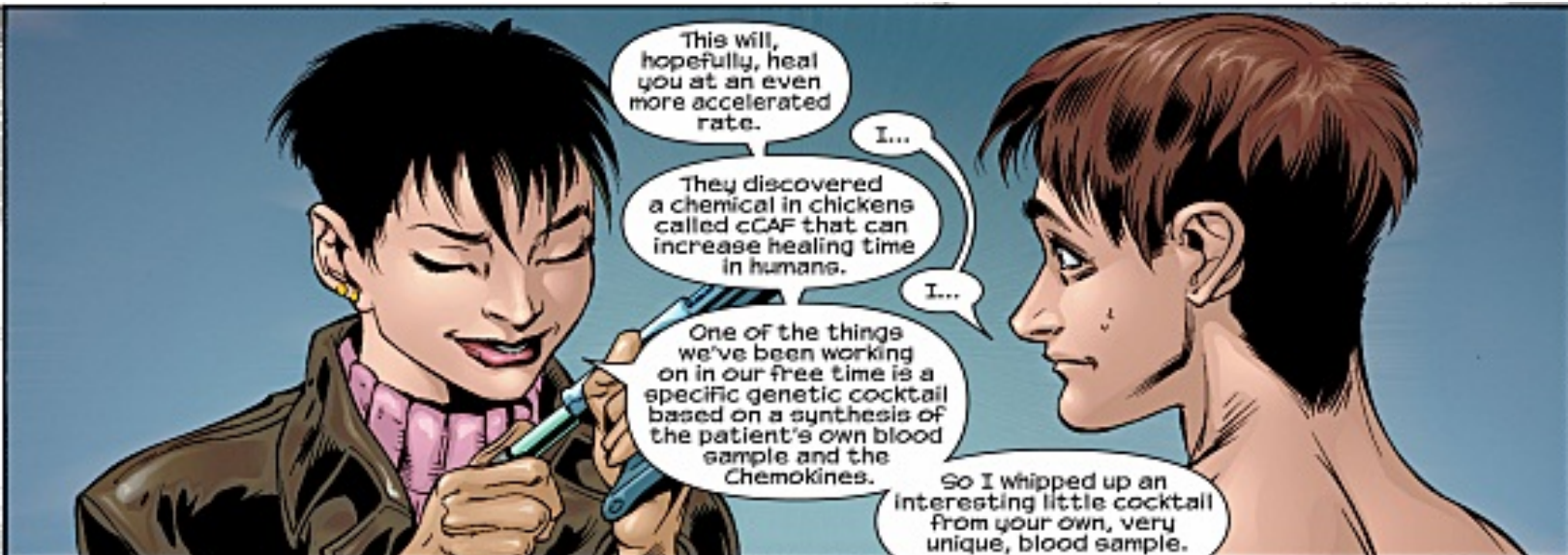


I can't
believe how
badly I got
my--









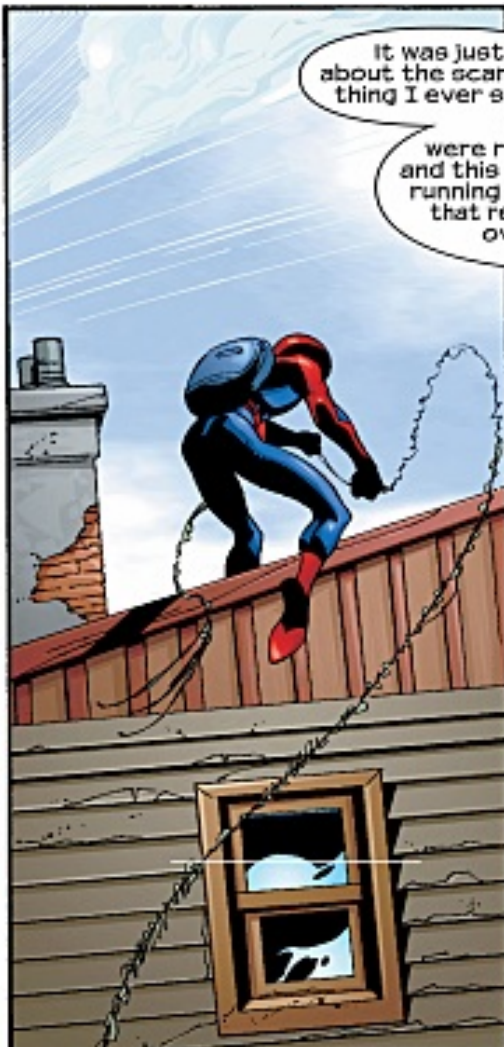


















So, basically this guy Ben, who is this reporter friend I have at the paper...

...he-- ahem-- he-- he said the same thing those cop friends of your dad said...

...that every one who saw what happened...

...every one of them said he died saving that little boy.



He died a hero.

And-- and I know that doesn't make it any better but-- that's what happened.



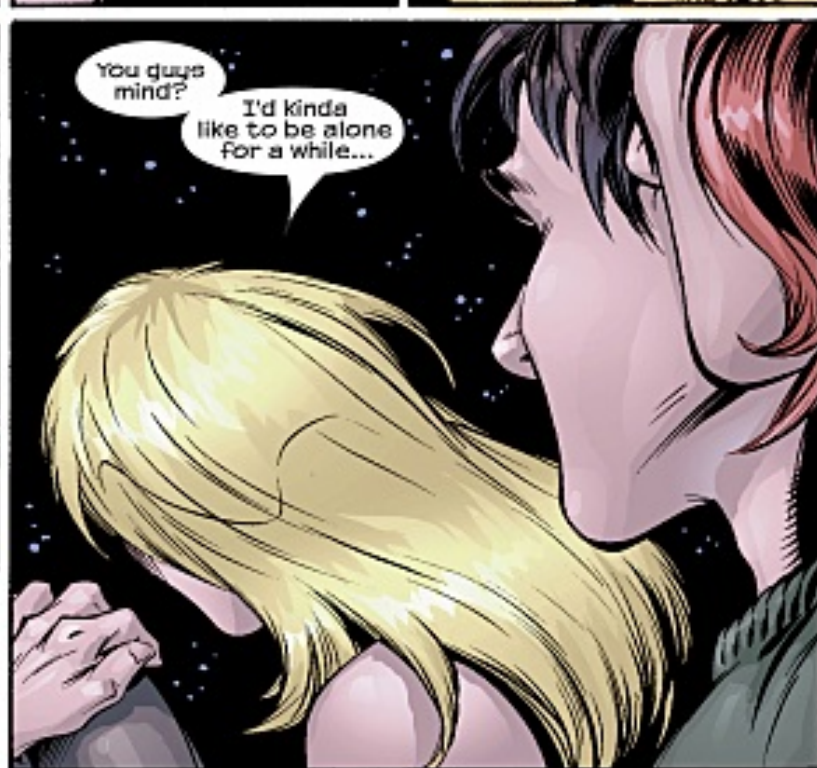
They-- uh--

--they don't know what was in the knapsack yet... but they think that it was stuff to open the armored car with-- blow it up or something.

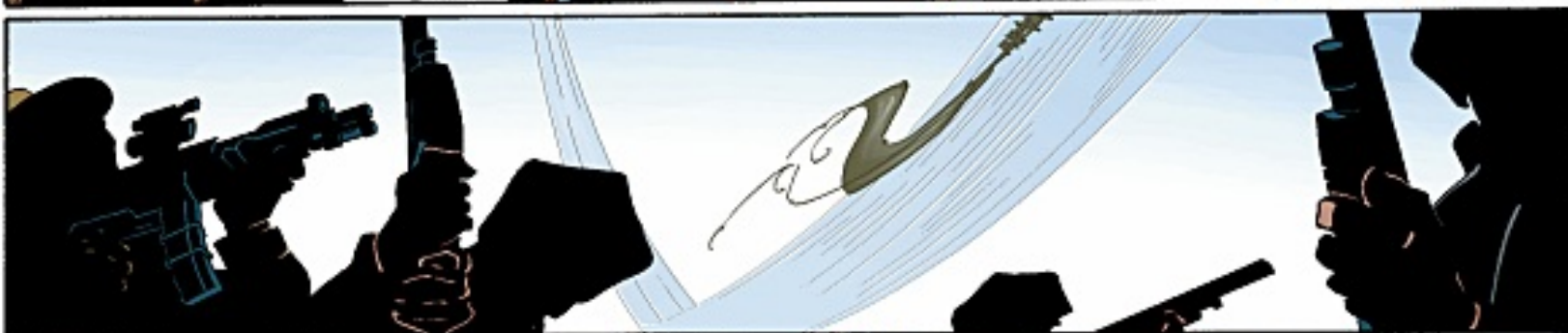
Maybe that plastic stuff-- that playdoh they make bombs with.



Spider-Man...









To be
concluded...

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE
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BENDIS
BAGLEY
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Gwen Stacy, the new girl at school is staying at Peter's house, while her father, police captain John Stacy, is in Atlantic City for a police convention.

At the convention, Captain Stacy is killed in an accident trying to apprehend the fake wall-crawler.

Peter goes to the Daily Bugle and finds out that the fake Spider-Man is holding hostages in a Soho bank. He bravely confronts the Imposter surrounded by the hostages.



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I-- I hope that this is the *grief* talking, and not who you really are, because what you are saying is just about the most horrible--

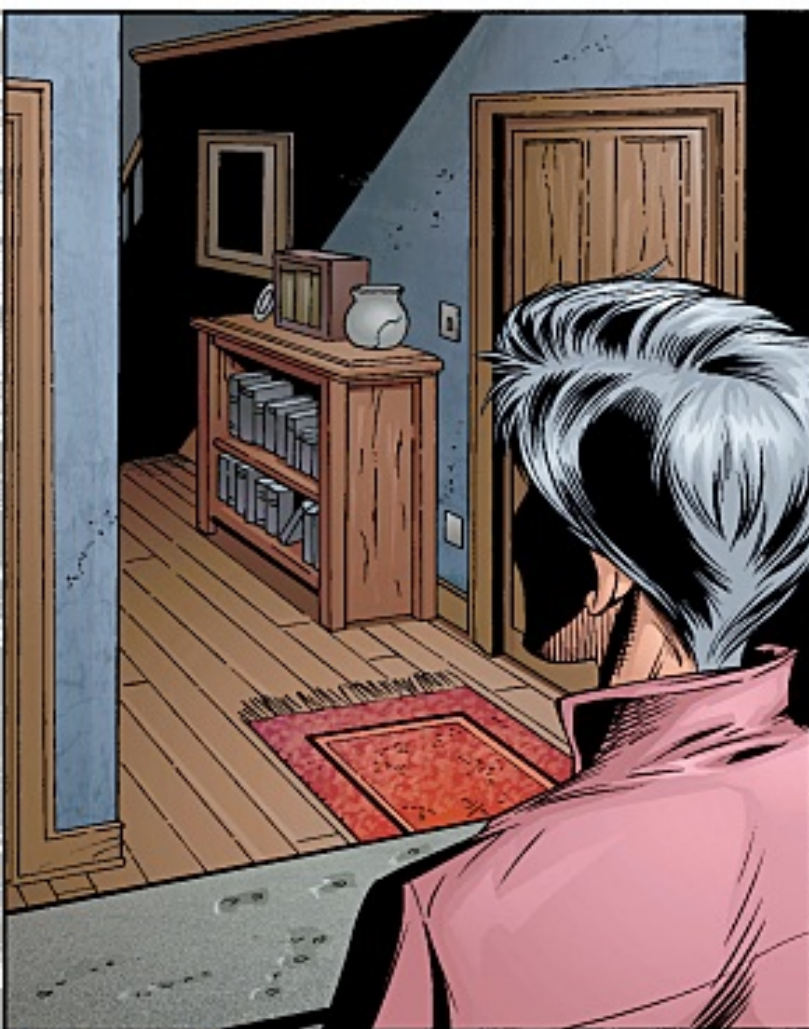
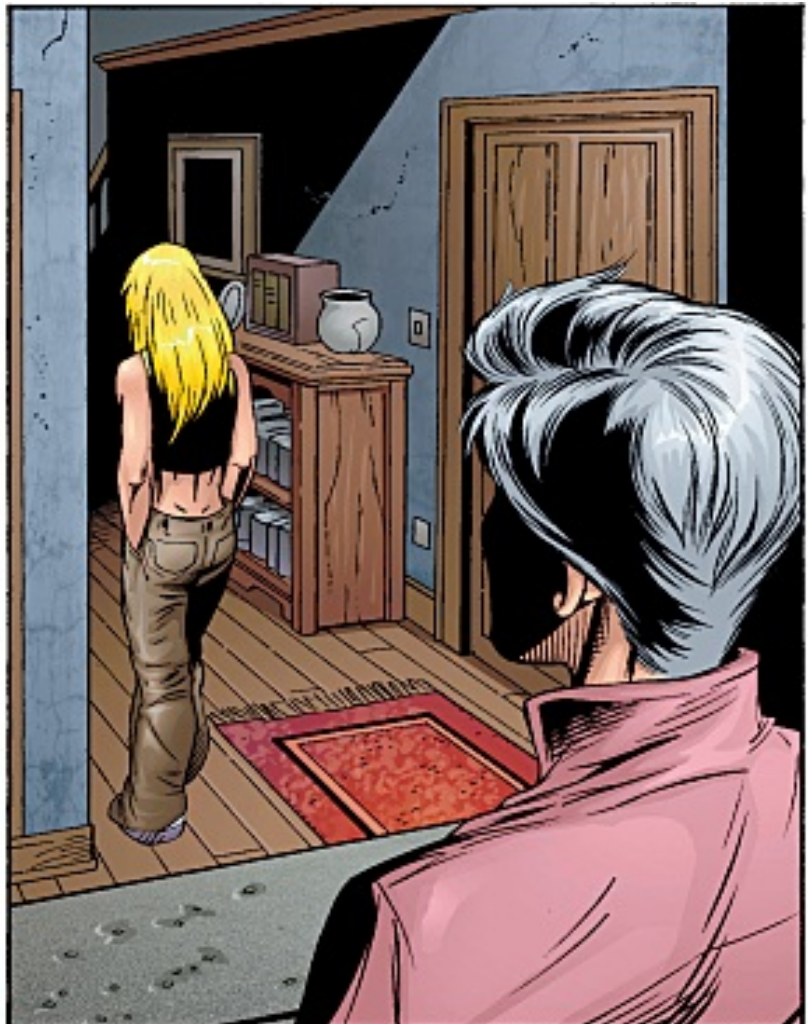
--hello?

Ugh...

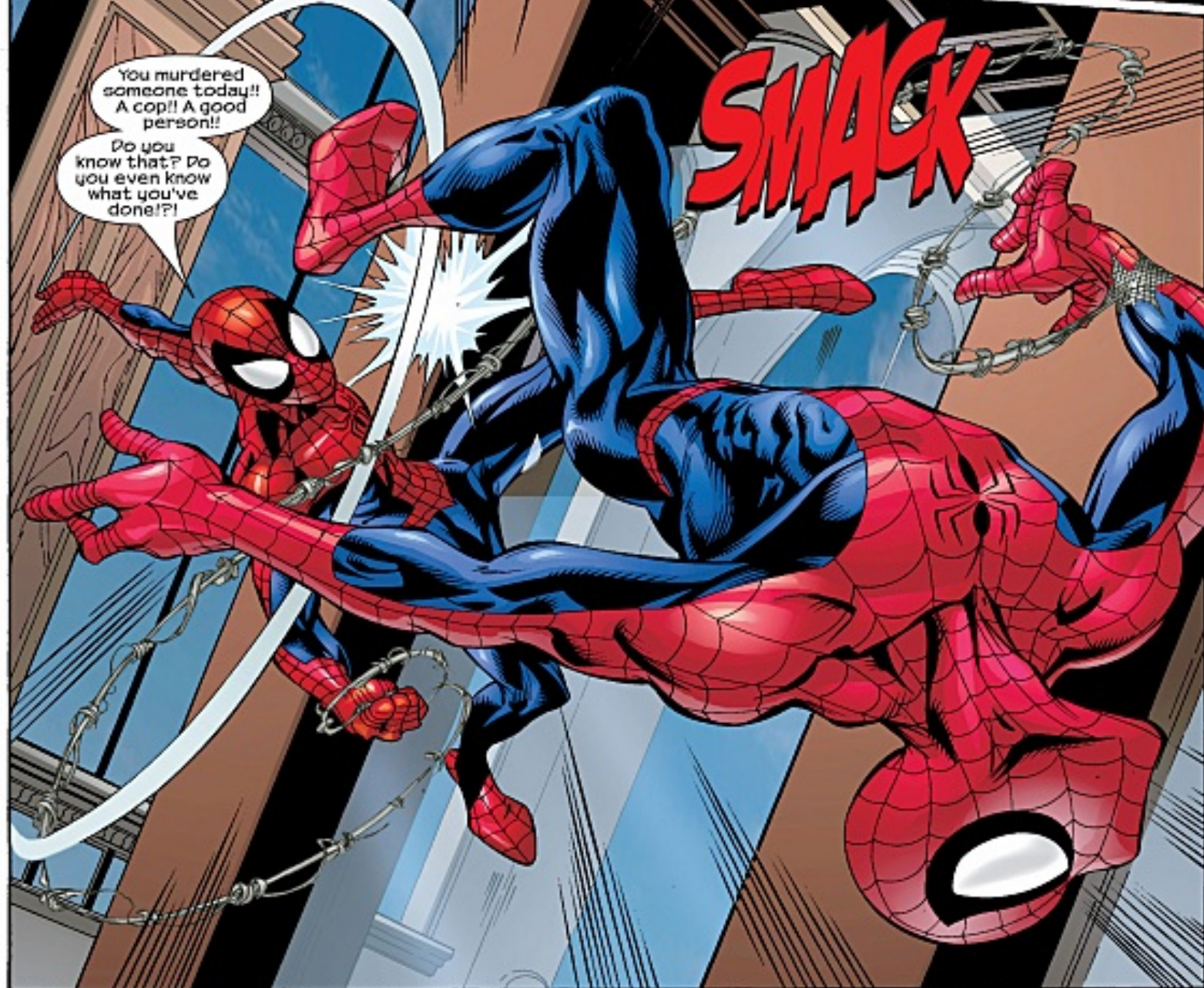


Told you...

...she's a piece of work.













P- please...
I'm- I'm just
some guy...



"Just some guy?"

Just--
some--
guy?!!

The world
thinks I'm a
murderer
now!!



All these people are
sitting here fearing
for their lives-- praying
that they get to go
home to their families--
just so some guy can
try to steal some
money!!

So "some guy"
can pretend to
be famous because
he puts on a
costume!!!

No...







I-I-I--
did it-- I--
it was all
me...

I did
it. I can
prove it and
everything...



Please--
please get
me out of
here...



I promise--
it was me and
me alone-- just--
just... please...



FROM THE
REAL
SPIDER-MAN



Dammit!

I lost it! I completely lost it!!



I didn't even know I could get that angry. It just creeped up on me.

I-- I didn't even realize it was happening.



I could have killed him-- killed a man with my bare hands. *Then* what would I be?

I can't even think about it. I just have to make sure-- I can never let anything even remotely like that happen again.



I have to remember why I do this in the first place. I--

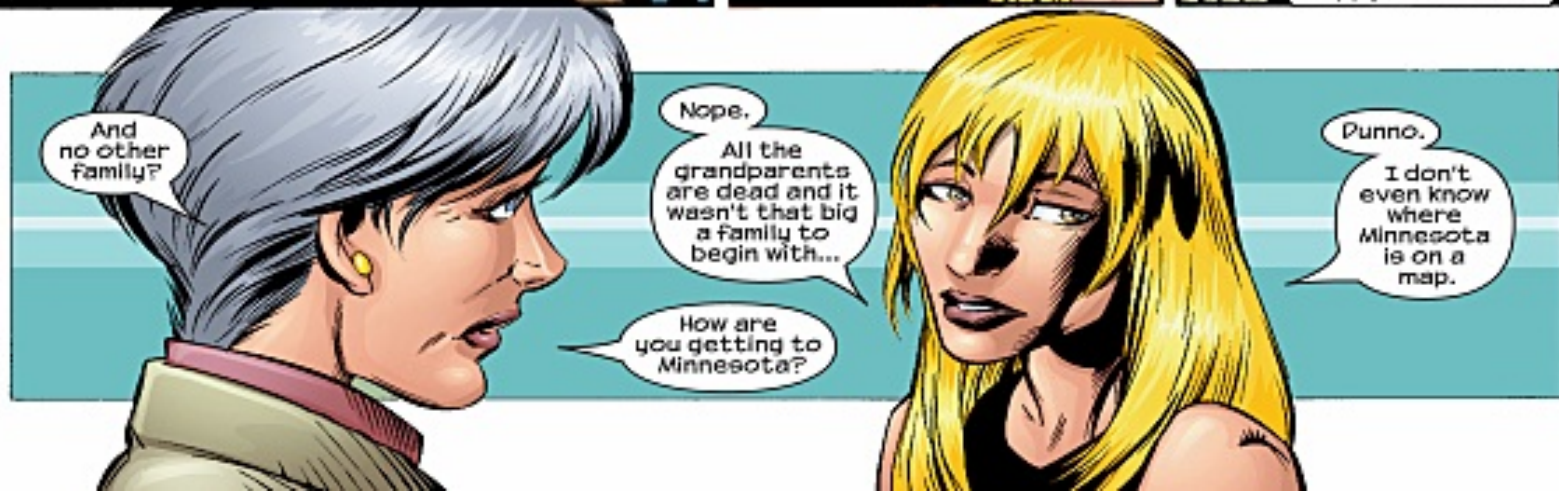
Uh-oh...

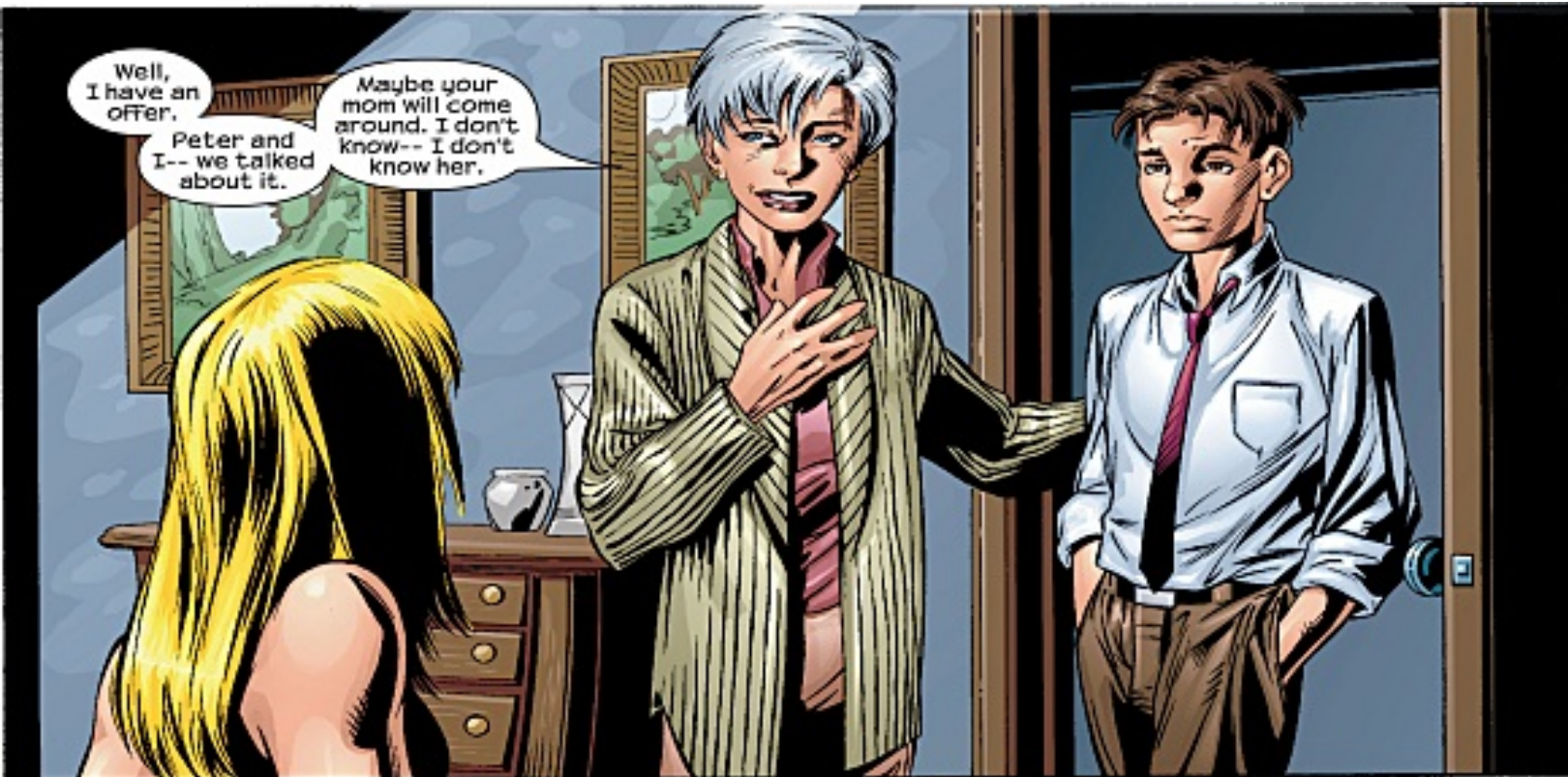
Aunt May?

We have to talk...



It's about Gwen...



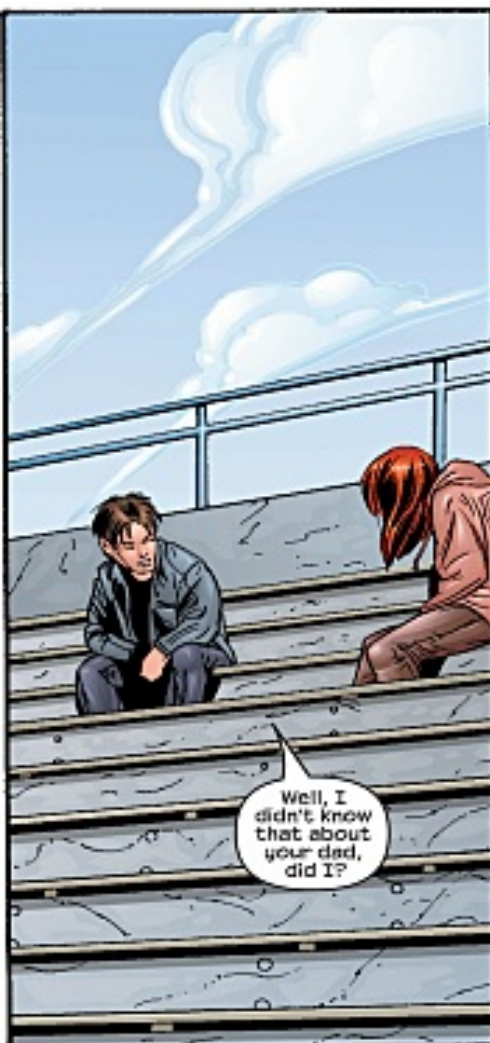












Well, I didn't know that about your dad, did I?



Peter, you never ask!

You never ask about me.

It's all about you and your costume.

And it was fun in the beginning, sure...



How am I supposed to know this about your dad and mom if you don't tell me?

I'm supposed to read your mind?



But for the record--

--it's not just Gwen.

It's all of it.

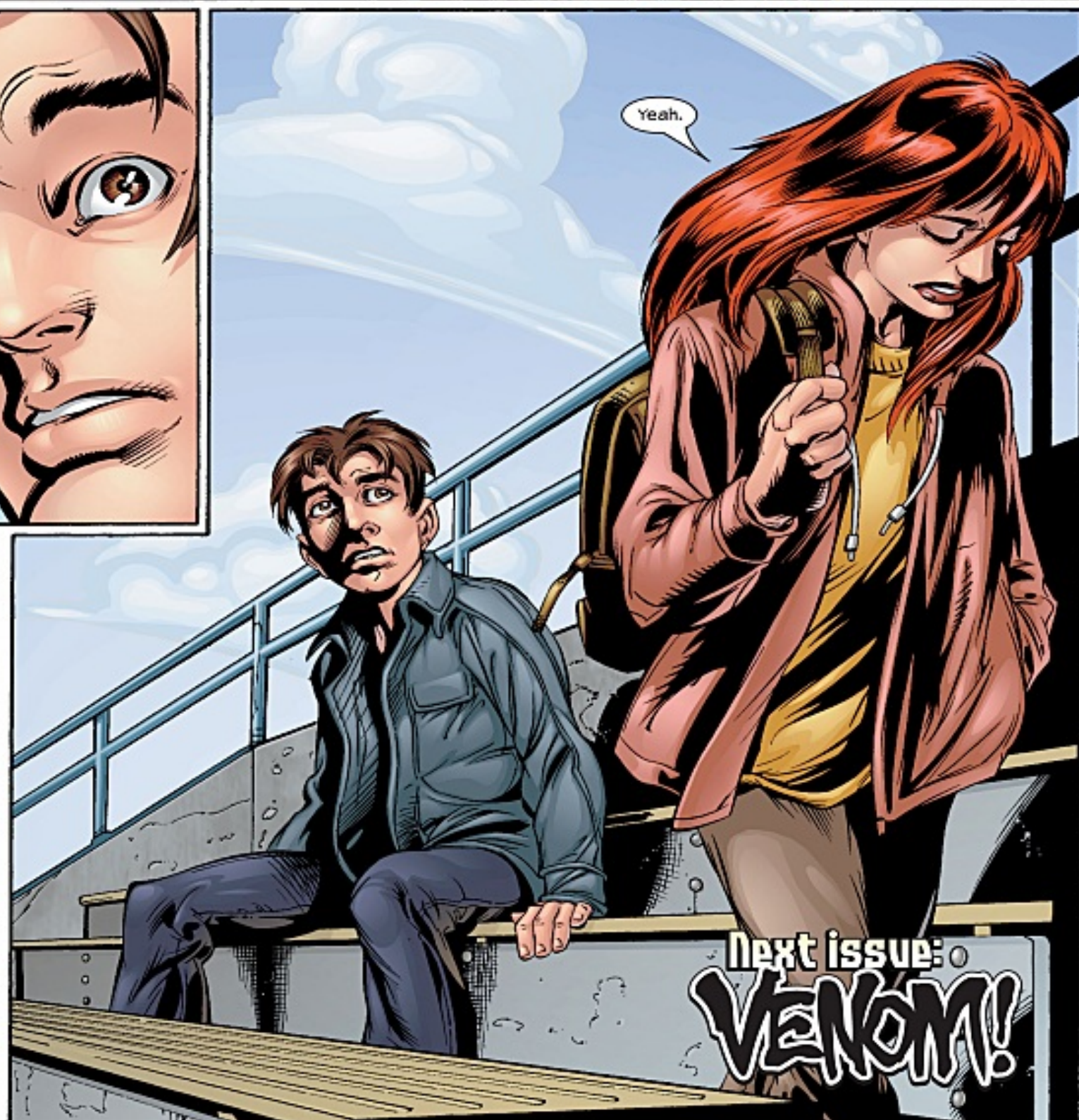
I love you, Peter.

I just can't do this.



So what?

We're done?



Next issue:
VENOM!

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